

Live Well to
Learn Well

Web:
health.cornell.edu

Phone (24/7):
607-255-5155

Fax:
607-255-0269

Appointments:
Monday–Saturday

*Check web for hours,
services, providers,
and appointment
information*

110 Ho Plaza,
Ithaca, NY
14853-3101

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) – sometimes called “sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)” – are very common. Approximately one in four college student has an STI.

While STIs often cause symptoms, some people have an STI and don’t know it because they don’t have symptoms. If you’re sexually active, it’s important to know your STI status to protect yourself, and sexual partners.

Most common STIs & symptoms

HPV, chlamydia, and herpes are the most common STIs among college students. Although treatment is available for all STIs, some STIs are not curable, including HPV and herpes.

STI symptoms might include sores, bumps, discharge, painful urination, or pain or discomfort during sex. However, some people have no symptoms, or very mild symptoms.

STIs can be transmitted even when symptoms are not present. Fortunately, tests are available to diagnose some STIs even if there are no symptoms.

When to get tested

If you have symptoms ...

It’s important to be evaluated in person by a clinician as soon as possible to determine the cause of the symptoms, and to receive medical treatment, if necessary.

If you don’t have symptoms ...

You can speak with a sexual health nurse at Cornell Health about recommended testing based on your risk factors. Visit health.cornell.edu/STI for testing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and Planned Parenthood.

Appointments

Appointments can be scheduled online through myCornellHealth (accessible from any page of health.cornell.edu) or by phone at 607-255-5155. Students experiencing symptoms will be scheduled with a clinician for an in-person visit. Students who are not experiencing symptoms can schedule either an in-person screening appointment or a virtual visit as the first step to getting care. More information about appointments can be found at health.cornell.edu/STI.



STIs can be transmitted even when symptoms are not present, so it’s important to know your STI status.

What happens during testing

Your provider will collect information about your sexual health history and any symptoms or other concerns you might have. Depending on your symptoms (if present) and other risk factors, a provider may:

- Conduct a physical assessment/examination
- Collect a specimen by swabbing your throat, penis, anus, or vagina
- Provide you with instructions to take a urine sample and/or a vaginal or rectal swab
- Send you to the Cornell Health lab for a blood sample

STIs can be bacterial or viral, and there is no one inclusive test, so you will likely be asked to provide several different types of samples to be tested.

Cost of testing

Preventive STI screenings (no symptoms) with a sexual health nurse are available to students at no cost.

Students who have symptoms and require a clinician visit have a \$10 appointment charge.

Additional testing resources

Visit health.cornell.edu/STI for other testing resources and test sites in Tompkins County.

To help reduce STI transmission, NY State requires that positive STI tests be confidentially reviewed by the local health department and that assistance with proper treatment be provided to infected individuals and their partner(s).

